

Appendix I: Section 4(f) Properties



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

ST. GEORGE FIELD OFFICE

345 E. Riverside Drive

St. George, Utah 84790

Phone (435)688-3200 • Fax (435)688-3252

JAN 16 2002

January 11, 2002

In reply refer to:

1610

(UT-100)

Mr. Robert Dowell, Project Manager
Southern Corridor Project/EIS
Utah Department of Transportation
1345 South 350 West
Richfield, UT 84701-0700

RE: Section 4(f) Screening for Impacts Related to the Southern Corridor Project

Dear Mr. Dowell:

The St. George Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, is in receipt of a request from HDR Engineering, consultant for the Southern Corridor Project environmental impacts analysis, to identify any section 4(f) resources on public lands within the project area. As this office has previously identified to HDR staff during meetings held here in the St. George Field Office, the following section 4(f) resources are present within the project area and could be impacted by construction of the Southern Corridor Project, depending on the alternative selected:

Sand Mountain Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)-40,725 acres
designated by *St. George Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (March 1999)

Special Features of Sand Mountain SRMA:

- A. Fort Pearce Historic Site- significant historic site and visitor attraction
- B. Dominguez-Escalante Trail-significant historic trail and recreational use area
- C. Honeymoon and Temple Trails-significant historic trails and visitor attractions
- D. Dinosaur Trackway-significant paleontological site and visitor attraction
- E. Sand dune off-highway vehicle recreation area
- F. Multiple use recreation trails: hiking, equestrian, mountain bike, motorized vehicles

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Warner Ridge/Fort Pearce Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)-4,281 acres
designated by *St. George Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (March 1999)

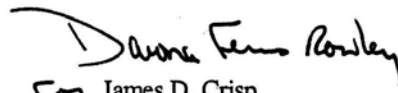
Special Features of the ACEC:

- A. Threatened and endangered plant species
- B. Fort Pearce-significant historic site and visitor attraction
- C. Honeymoon Trail-significant historic trail and visitor attraction
- D. Essential Wildlife Habitat and Riparian Values-water fowl, gila monster, bats, raptors
- F. Multiple use recreation trails: hiking, equestrian, mountain biking

Other historic properties, as defined by the implementing regulations for the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (36 CFR 60.4 a-d), are present in the SRMA and ACEC. These include prehistoric and historic period archeological sites that satisfy one of more of the eligibility criteria for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places. An assessment of any project-related effects to these resources will need to be completed and Section 106 consultation conducted with the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer for the Southern Corridor Project. Appropriate treatments to lessen any adverse effects to historic properties must be implemented prior to the authorization of rights-of-way grants on public lands.

The environmental impact statement currently being prepared by HDR Engineering will need to take into account the above-cited resources and fully disclose any project-related impacts. If you have questions or require any additional information concerning these recommendations, kindly contact Dawna Ferris-Rowley, Assistant Field Office Manager, at 688-3216. We look forward to working with you and the other parties associated with this project.

Sincerely,


For James D. Crisp
Field Office Manager

cc: Vincent Izzo
HDR Engineering



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ST. GEORGE FIELD OFFICE
 345 E. Riverside Drive
 St. George, Utah 84790
 Phone (435) 688-3200 • Fax (435) 688-3252

In reply refer to:
 1430
 (UT-100)

March 7, 2003

Mr. Greg S. Punske, P.E., Environmental Program Manager
 U.S. Department of Transportation, Utah Division
 2520 West 2700 South, Ste. 9A
 Salt Lake City, UT 84711-1847

RE: Southern Corridor; Federal Aid Project No. SP-LC53 (1)
 Section 4 (f) Determinations for Public Lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Dear Mr. Punske:

The proposed Southern Corridor Project (Project) would provide a regional transportation facility designed to link areas east of Interstate I-15, between the Arizona-Utah border and State Route 9, thereby lessening congestion on surface arterial streets in eastern Washington County, Utah. The St. George Field Office-BLM has right-of-way granting authority, under the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act, for public lands in Washington County that might be used for the Project. BLM has been requested by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the lead federal agency, and the Utah Department of Transportation to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Project.

FHWA has recently provided this office with its evaluation of the significance for public lands and resources in the proposed project area, as defined at Section 4(f) (23 CFR 771.135(a)(1))- regulations implementing the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. According to Section 4(f), FHWA may not approve the use of land from a significant publicly owned park, recreation area, or wildlife or waterfowl refuge or significant historic site, unless a determination is made that there is no prudent and feasible alternative to the use of the land and the action includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the property resulting from the use. FHWA has made the following determinations regarding the Section 4(f) status of the Sand Mountain SRMA, Sand Hollow Recreation Area, and the Warner Ridge/Fort Pearce ACEC.

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2.

Sand Mountain SRMA.

The 40,725 acre Sand Mountain SRMA provides an "Open" play area for all types of motorized Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreational uses, as well as other public opportunities for casual use horseback riding, scenic driving and viewing, natural history education, undeveloped camping, picnicking, guided tours, and recreational instruction. Because this area receives primarily casual recreational use, FHWA has determined that it does not meet the criteria of Section 4(f) properties.

Sand Hollow Recreation Area.

BLM has entered into a cooperative planning effort with the Washington County Water Conservancy District and the Utah Division of State Parks to develop the Sand Hollow Recreation Area. This area includes 16,564 acres of the Sand Mountain SRMA within the planning unit. Private lands surrounding the Sand Hollow Reservoir will be developed to include an array of facilities designed to meet the needs of water-based recreational enthusiasts, including boaters, anglers and campers. Intensive recreation uses are anticipated within this area, with those activities to be managed by the Utah Division of State Parks (State Parks) (*Sand Hollow Recreation Area Recreation Management Plan, 2001*)

As shown in Figure 7 (Proposed Facilities) of the *Sand Hollow Recreation Management Plan*, a commuter road is planned around the southern extent of the recreation area, to provide both access to the recreation area and to serve local communities as a transportation route. A proposed alignment of the Southern Corridor follows route currently shown for the commuter road. In this area, the proposed Southern Corridor would have limited access, with right-of-way fencing to ensure that no unauthorized access on or off the highway occurs. In addition, the location of any proposed access points under the Southern Corridor to recreation facilities south of the Sand Hollow Recreation Area would be coordinated with BLM and State Parks to ensure consistency with the proposed management of recreation area facilities.

FHWA has determined that a highway like the Southern Corridor could occupy the right-of-way of the commuter road proposed in the *Sand Hollow Recreation Management Plan* and be jointly planned with BLM and State Parks

Warner Ridge/Fort Pearce ACEC

This ACEC is located on public lands, south east of St. George, within the Sand Mountain SRMA. The 4,218-acre area was designated as an ACEC by BLM through its land use planning process to provide special management for the endangered dwarf bear-claw poppy, the threatened silver cholla cactus, important riparian values along the Fort Pearce Wash, and historic sites. The BLM has been involved in the Southern Corridor planning process and has assisted in the development of an alignment through the ACEC that avoids impacts to sensitive resources, and provides a benefit to these resources by restricting unauthorized recreational access to closed areas. The proposed Southern Corridor alignments under consideration include right-of-way fencing that would limit unauthorized access to the endangered dwarf bear-claw poppy habitat on the Warner Ridge.

FHWA has determined that the Warner Ridge/Fort Pearce ACEC does not currently meet the "refuge" characteristics that are afforded protection under Section 4(f). Coordination between BLM, FHWA, and UDOT will continue to ensure that any impacts to the Warner Ridge/Fort Pearce ACEC are minimized during project planning and implementation.

3.

The St. George Field Office staff has reviewed the determinations of Section 4 (f) significance made by FHWA concerning the Sand Mountain SRMA, Sand Hollow Recreation Area, and Warner Ridge/Fort Pearce ACEC. We concur with the determination that these are not Section 4 (f) properties, as described in 23 CFR 771.135(a)(1)). In addition, FHWA has determined that a road like the Southern Corridor could occupy the "commuter road" identified in the *Sand Hollow Recreation Area Management Plan*. We also concur with FHWA determination that the Southern Corridor could occupy the right-of-way of the "commuter road" around the Sand Hollow Reservoir.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Dawna Ferris-Rowley, Asst. Field Office Manager, at (435) 688-3216.

Sincerely,

James D. Crisp
Field Office Manager

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March 10, 2005



KAYA ASSOCIATES, INC
2862 Willow Bend Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah
84093

TEL 801 274 3195

John Harja
Executive Director
Resource Development Coordinating Committee
5110 State Office Building
PO Box 141103
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-1103

Subject: Southern Corridor EIS - Sand Hollow Recreation Area
UDOT Project # SP-LC53 (I)

Dear Mr. Harja:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Southern Corridor highway. The proposed Southern Corridor would be a four-lane, limited-access highway beginning at Interstate-15 (I-15) about 2 miles north of the Arizona border and connecting to State Route 9 (SR 9) near Hurricane. Three potential alternatives have been developed for the connection at SR 9 as shown in Attachment 1. One of these potential alternatives (2800 West Alternative) would extend around the southern end of the proposed Sand Hollow State Park.

During the Draft EIS public comment period, the Utah Resource Development Coordinating Committee raised some concerns about the impacts of the 2800 West Alternative to Sand Hollow State Park (May 30, 2003, Project 03-2729). To address those concerns, UDOT held a meeting with State Parks on August 13, 2003 (meeting minutes enclosed) to develop additional mitigation measures to minimize impacts to the Sand Hollow State Park by the 2800 West Alternative and to discuss the joint-development opportunities of the Southern Corridor as the proposed commuter road as shown in the park plans. To address your concerns regarding access between the reservoir and the Sand Hollow Recreation Area the following mitigation has been added to the Final EIS:

If the 2800 West Alternative is selected, UDOT would work with BLM and the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation to provide access between the Sand Hollow Reservoir and the Sand Hollow Recreation Area to the south. The primary access that would need to be maintained would be between the reservoir and the proposed OHV campground. However, as park facilities are further developed, potential access points could change or others may become necessary. Prior to final design, UDOT will consult with the agencies to determine the location and type of access required. The access point for the proposed OHV campground would need to facilitate use by recreational vehicles such as motor homes.

March 10, 2005

UDOT is committed to working with State Parks on proposed access issues and looks forward to continuing discussions as the final design is developed. We hope the mitigation above is acceptable. UDOT and FHWA have coordinated with BLM and the Washington County Water Conservancy District regarding the 2800 West Alternative and both agencies have agreed with the alternative alignment.

To determine if the proposed Southern Corridor could be jointly developed with Sand Hollow State Park and the Sand Hollow Recreation Area, FHWA request concurrence that a highway like the Southern Corridor would be acceptable as the "commuter road" around the southern extent of the proposed recreation area as shown in the park plans with implementation of the mitigation above. If you concur with the FHWA determination, you may sign the signature block provided and return a copy of this letter to KAYA Associates, Inc.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please call me.


Sincerely,



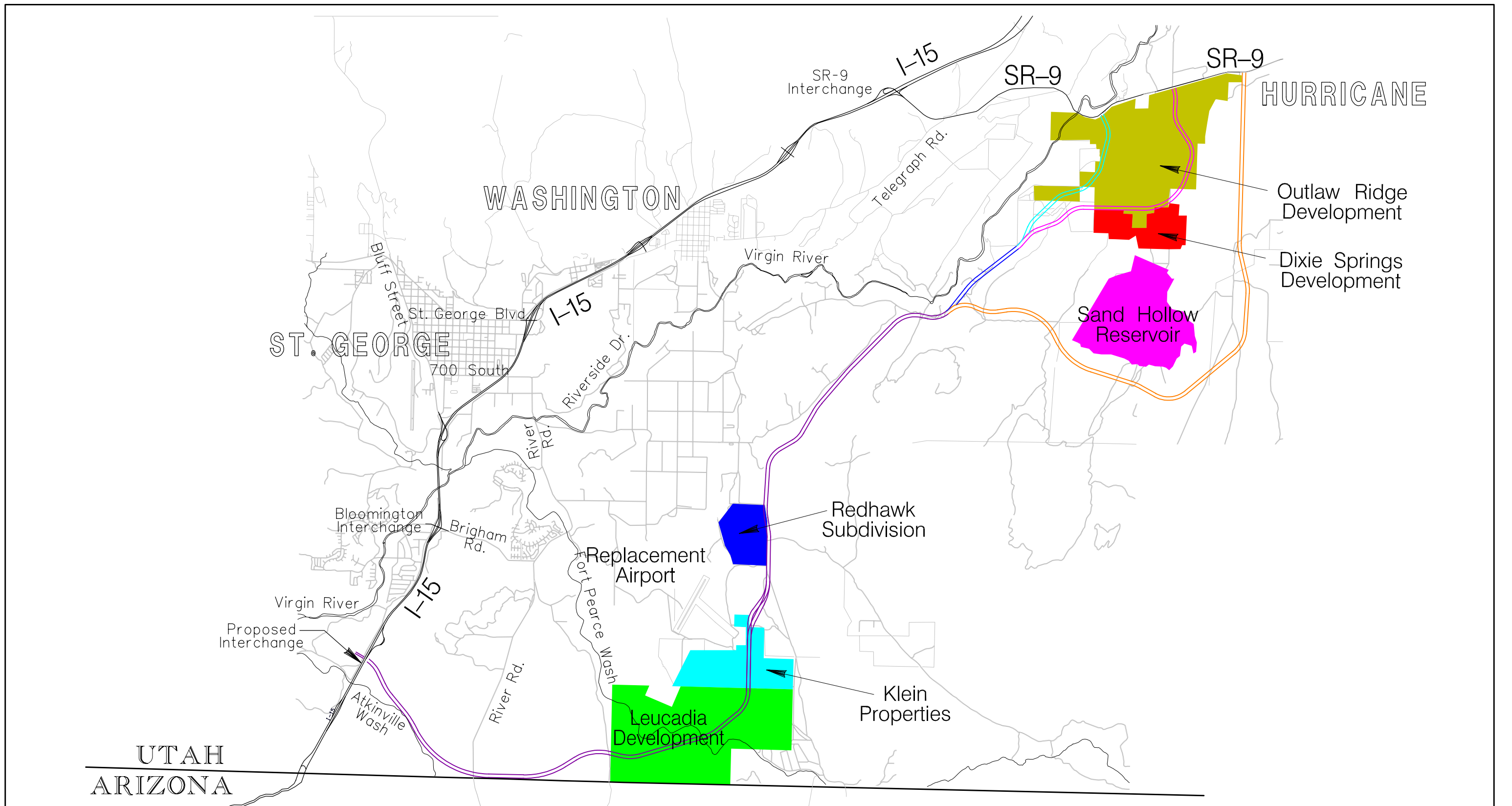
Vincent Izzo
Southern Corridor EIS Manager
KAYA Associates, Inc.

cc: Greg Punske, FHWA
Tamera Maxwell, UDOT
Daryl Friant, UDOT
Robert Dowell, UDOT
File

Concurrence,



Gordon Topham - Deputy Director
State of Utah Representative
Utah Division of Parks & Recreation



- LEGEND
- All Alternatives
 - 3400 and 4300 West Alternatives
 - 4300 West Alternative
 - 3400 West Alternative
 - 2800 West Alternative

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FEET

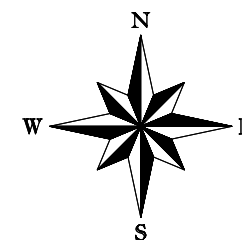


Figure 2-9
**SOUTHERN CORRIDOR
4300 WEST, 3400 WEST, AND
2800 WEST ALTERNATIVES**
Southern Corridor EIS
April 2005



**Draft Meeting Minutes
Southern Corridor EIS**

Date: August 13, 2003
Time: 8:00 AM
Location: Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Attendees

Tamerha Maxwell – UDOT
Robert Dowell – UDOT
Gordon Topham – State Parks
Jamie Dalton – State Parks
Kimm Harty – Utah Geologic Survey
Val Payne – UDNR
John Harja – DNR/GOPB
Vance Hanson - HDR Engineering, Inc.
Vince Izzo – HDR Engineering, Inc.

Purpose

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the comments received from DNR on the Southern Corridor DEIS.

Discussion

- HDR stated that the comments regarding paleontological resources will be addressed by including the report in an appendix. In addition, the FEIS will be revised to include the soils information provided by the State.
- State Parks was aware that the proposed Southern Corridor could be located adjacent to Sand Hollow State Park. State Parks has met with the Washington County Water Conservancy District and have determined that the 2800 West Alternative could be located south of Sand Hollow as long as mitigation is provided to allow access to the OHV campground.

- HDR stated that the mitigation was included in the DEIS but that additional information would be added. The FEIS will revise the mitigation to say that the access will allow recreational vehicles to pass under the highway to the proposed OHV campground.
- State Parks has signed a lease with the WCWCD to manage the Sand Hollow Recreation area and is in discussion with the BLM to manage 16,000 acres south of the reservoir. It was noted that the lease includes a right-of-way to be held by the WCWCD under private ownership for a commuter road. Gordon Topham will provide a copy of the lease to HDR.
- HDR will provide a letter to DNR regarding the proposed mitigation for the Southern Corridor asking for concurrence on the project. DNR will provide a response to the letter.
- HDR will add Plate 6 from the Sand Hollow Recreation Plan to the FEIS.

Action Items

- HDR will provide a letter to DNR regarding potential mitigation for the Southern Corridor. DNR will provide a concurrence letter if the mitigation is acceptable.
- Gordon Topham will provide HDR a copy of the lease agreement between State Parks and the WCWCD regarding Sand Hollow State Park.

Distribution: Project File Attendees

This report represents the understanding of the Preparer. If you feel that an item needs clarification or correction, please provide your comments to the Preparer in writing. The Preparer will resolve the issue and distribute the revised minutes in a legislative format.
